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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from Plauen 25X1A

EVALUATION 25X1X PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 15 August to 8 September 1953

DATE OBTAINED PREPARED 5 October 1953

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Prior to 1 September 1953, the Hindenburg Kaserne in Plauen quartered an estimated 2,000 troops who wore black-bordered crimson epaulets. Soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets belonged to the Koenig Georg Kaserne. They entered their installation through the gate of the Hindenburg Kaserne. On 15 August, 14 JS tanks, 12 trucks, 1 field kitchen and 1 ambulance entered the installation, coming from the railroad station.

After 4:30 a.m. on 16 August, tank firing was heard from the direction of Schneckengruen.

Kobitzschwalde training grounds and determined that infantry troops and tanks practiced there, while numerous columns of troops and about 150 trucks were seen in the vicinity of the training area and on the Schneckengruen-Mehltheuer road.

Weapons identified included heavy machine guns, mortars and AT guns of various caliber. The columns included many radio sections. The troops returned to the post between 3 and 4 p.m. on 18 August. 180 trucks, each occupied by 10 to 20 soldiers, and 3 SU-76 were observed.

The tanks which had been seen engaged in the exercises were not among the units returned. Between 2 and 4 p.m. on 26 August, 14 officers and 476 EM with light and heavy machine guns, mortars telephones, gas masks and practice targets and

the troops have recently been engaged in frequent night exercises.

2. Prior to 1 September, the Koenig Georg Kaserne was occupied by an estimated 1,200 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. The installation was about 75 percent lighted at dusk. Twelve trucks and about 150 soldiers engaged in athletic exercises were seen in the barracks yard on 31 August.²

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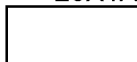
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3. Prior to 1 September, the Kirchbach Kaserne was occupied by 500 to 600 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with signal insignia. The radio truck in the yard was still in operation. A line led from there to the komendatura. No change in the training activity at the installation had occurred. The dispensary was occupied by an estimated 250 troops. Sentries there wore black-bordered crimson epaulets. On 29 August, about 250 soldiers from the Hindenburg Kaserne moved into the dispensary.³
4. Prior to 6 September, the Hindenburg Kaserne was occupied to capacity by troops with black-bordered crimson epaulets. About 180 to 200 troops, presumably recruits, wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets, engaged in basic infantry training. [REDACTED]
- 25X1B [REDACTED]
- 25X1 [REDACTED]
5. At about 10 a.m. on 5 September, 350 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, 43 trucks [REDACTED] 1 sedan, 16 x 76.2-mm AT guns and 5 x 122-mm field howitzers were seen on the road to the Koenig Georg Kaserne, coming from the railroad station where two troop trains had arrived. At about 2 p.m., 12 x 122-mm field howitzers stood in the yard of the Koenig Georg Kaserne. Prior to 6 September, the Koenig Georg Kaserne was occupied to capacity by troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Small groups of soldiers marched to the drill grounds and target range almost daily. [REDACTED]
- 25X1B [REDACTED]
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6. Prior to 6 September, no changes were noticed regarding the occupation of the Kirchbach Kaserne. The new telephone line from the southwest side of the installation to the radar station was completed. Another new telephone line with two wires led to the Schneckengruen target ranges. A connection with a four-wire line which leads from the border to the former garrison hospital was observed 700 meters east of Strassberg. The air force radio truck previously observed was now stationed at the southwest side of the installation and had a 8-meter rod antenna. [REDACTED]
- 25X1A [REDACTED]
- 25X1 [REDACTED]
- 25X1 [REDACTED]
- 25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. Both the present report and a previous report [REDACTED] indicated that the 112th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt of the 39th Gas Mtz Rifle Div was stationed at the post between late July and 6 September. [REDACTED] Reports on military rail movements allowed the conclusion that the regiment had been at Ohrdruf in July. The JS tanks observed taking part in the regiment exercise belong to the 220th Hv Tank SP Regt from Glauchau, which together with the 30th Gds Mtz Rifle Div was repeatedly identified during exercises in this area.

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[redacted] Comment. Elements of the 87th Gun Arty Regt stationed in the
25X1A Koenig Georg Kaserne presumably returned from Ohrdruf on 5 September,
25X1 as is inferred from the report [redacted] The strength es-
25X1 timate made [redacted] is therefore believed
too high.

[redacted] Comment. Artillery units of the 112th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt are
25X1A stationed in the Kirchbach Kaserne. The air force radio station loca-
ted there is known from previous reports.

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